GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4142
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2001
ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION IN DELHI
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR;S. SAIDUZZAMAN

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the atmosphere over Delhi have been vitiated due to presence of RSPM, Nitrogen Dioxide and Sulphur in excess of the safe level;

(b) if so, impact thereof on the health of the residents; and

(c) the steps being taken to bring the atmospheric Pollution within safe level?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) The data on ambient air quality, being monitored at seven locations in Delhi, indicates that the average levels of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM), Oxides of Nitrogen and Sulphur dioxide were generally within the safe limits. However, the levels of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) and Oxides of Nitrogen exceeded the prescribed limits on a few days at a few locations mainly due to vehicular emissions.

(b) Air pollution may cause respiratory ailments. However, no conclusive data are available to establish the co-relationship between the increasing trend of air pollution and incidence of respiratory diseases.

(c) The steps taken to control pollution include the following:-

(i) Action Plan to control pollution in Delhi has been prepared and is being implemented.

(ii) Emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for new vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and are enforced by Transport Departments of the State Governments including Delhi.

(iii) A comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution that lays stress on both the control and preventive aspects of pollution has been formulated.

(iv) Unleaded petrol is supplied in the entire country from 1.2.2000 and diesel with 0.25% sulphur maximum content is supplied from 1.1.2000 in the entire country. Ultra low sulphur (0.05%) fuel (petrol and diesel) has also been introduced in major cities including Delhi.

(v) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi to cater to the CNG vehicles.

(vi) Benzene concentration in petrol has been reduced.

(vii) Emission standards for industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.

(viii) Industries are also required to install necessary pollution control equipments before commissioning of their plants.

(ix) Industries are required to take consent from the respective State Pollution Control Board under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.